

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update



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Prescribing in Areas out with Pharmacy First Plus Service

Please be reminded that although there is not currently a defined list of conditions which could be assessed and treated under Pharmacy First Plus, the service specification is for “**common clinical conditions beyond the scope of the standard NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service and would otherwise require onward referral to another healthcare professional**”, with some examples of what might be appropriate. This service should only be provided when an individual **presents with symptoms of a common clinical condition**.

Recent prescribing reports have shown an increase in prescribing for several conditions that do not fall under the scope of Pharmacy First Plus:

- Period delay
- Urgent access to medicines
- Items of low clinical value
- Items include in the Pharmacy First Approved List
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception/NRT – both sit under the **Public Health Service section** of the national contract, **not Pharmacy First**.

A few years ago the NHS Pharmacy First Plus Advisory Group had lengthy discussions about period delay being included – but agreed that it would be more appropriate for it to sit under a “Community Pharmacy Women’s Health” service (as per the commitment of the Women’s Health Plan). Until this service is developed, period delay medications **should not be processed through** the Pharmacy First Plus service.

MAR Chart Information and Useful Resources

Please find the attached important MAR Chart information and useful resource links.

A MAR (Medication Administration Record) chart is a paper or electronic record used by healthcare staff, such as nurses and care workers, to document the administration of medications to patients or service users in care homes, domiciliary care, or supported living environments. It serves both as an instruction guide and a legal record, helping staff follow prescribed treatments accurately.

A MAR chart typically includes:

- Patient details.
- Medication details: Names (brand and generic), strengths, dosages, administration routes (oral, topical, etc.), and special instructions such as timing or whether to take with food.
- Administration schedule: Specific times for each dose, including PRN (“as required”) medications
- Documentation: Space for staff to record each dose given, missed, or refused, along with initials or signatures for accountability.

- Monitoring notes: Observations, side effects, or any issues encountered during administration.

Public Health Update

World Hepatitis Day 28th July 2026

With this important day coming up at the end of the month, we wanted to give you a heads up so you can organise promotional materials beforehand and join NHS Grampian in pushing messaging, resources and services.

- A reminder that we encourage you all (mandatory for GOLD award holders) to stock a small amount of BBV kits, available here: gram.bbvpostaltesting@nhs.scot.
- Grampian Sexual Health Services website is here: [Grampian Sexual Health Services | Sexual Health Advice and Information](#)
- The digital BBV leaflet is here: [mvc-230347---blood-borne-viruses-bbv---what-you-need-to-know-version-06.pdf](#)
- More about World Hepatitis Day here: [Home - World Hepatitis Day](#)
- Posters for sharing are in the attachments.

Smoking Cessation Update

Feedback Form for STAFF Experiencing Smoking Cessation Service Issues

Do you have concerns, issues or suggestions around the current National Smoking Cessation Service?

This feedback form is to gather information from **pharmacy staff** in order to feedback to Community Pharmacy Scotland: [Feedback Form for Pharmacies Experiencing Issues Around Smoking Cessation Services – Fill in form](#)

Pharmaceutical Care Services Star Award Programme

Thank you to those who have already nominated a colleague for our new **Staff Recognition and Thanks (STAR) Award**. If you would like to nominate a colleague for a STAR award please see our Microsoft Form submission form here: [Star Award Nominations for Community Pharmacy Staff – Fill in form](#)

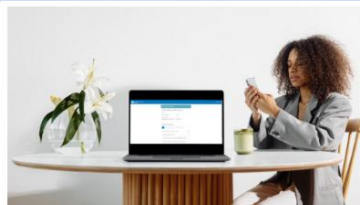
As the Pharmaceutical Care Services Staff Thanks and Recognition Award (STAR) is now open for public nominations, we have attached a promotional poster for display within your pharmacy. The poster encourages patients, carers, and members of the public to nominate individual staff members or pharmacy teams who have provided exceptional care, support, or service.

PSD Scotland Pharmacy Newsletter – July 2026

Please [click here](#) to view the July 2026 PSD Scotland pharmacy newsletter. This issue includes:

- The Post-Registration Programme for Pharmacists.
- Coming Soon: Community Pharmacy Workforce Survey 2026.
- Events, Resources and programmes.

Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



12/01/2026 • Robbie Collins

Medicines Care and Review (MCR) Ready Reckoner

This week's MCR Ready Reckoner has been updated and is now available to download or you can view it via the App.



09/01/2026 • Robbie Collins

PVG Scheme Members: Check Your Email Address Is Up to Date

Disclosure Scotland has published its June 2026 newsletter, covering two important updates for PVG scheme members and customers.



09/01/2026 • Adam Oaghey

GP Walk-in Centres - Experience

As part of our policy work, we are keen to understand more about you and your patients' experiences of the newly-established GP Walk-in centre pilot sites across the country, and how these fit in with services like Pharmacy First.



09/01/2026 • Adam Oaghey

CPS Snapshot - 9th July 2026

A weekly snapshot of CPS activity including policy work, digital developments and stakeholder engagement across community pharmacy.

The Happy Place 😊

This week we are delighted to highlight our next new "Star Award" winners, the Christies of Fochabers pharmacy team for their proactive approach to sustainability. At the beginning of this year they introduced a blister pack recycling service to try and reduce waste and support the local community. Fantastic initiative, very well done! 🌍



We would like to continue this section as an opportunity for reward, recognition and good news stories of the teams who read this! Please submit any items for inclusion to gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot.

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#). Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)